

April 2009 Examination Cycle

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER and PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR EXAMINEE INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions supplement the instructions printed on/in your test booklet. In case of conflict, these instructions take precedence over the instructions on/in the test booklet. It is important that you read and understand these instructions before the exam as the following changes have occurred:

- Your identification **MUST BE CURRENT** as expired identifications will not be accepted.
- You will no longer need to provide your social security, social insurance, individual taxpayer identification, or passport number on your answer sheet.
- You will be permitted to have only **TWO** measuring devices i.e. ruler, protractor, architect scale or engineer scale on your desktop at any one time.

On the day of the exam, if you are taking an NCEES exam, you will be required to sign your answer sheet stating you have read and understand the NCEES policies. By going to http://www.ncees.org/candidate_info.pdf, you can obtain this policy. You will also be required to sign a statement which certifies that you have read and will abide by the following instructions.

The following schedule indicates the time when doors will be opened for seating:

FRIDAY, April 24, 2009

- National Professional Engineers Examinations – 7:00 A.M.
- National Professional Land Surveyor Examinations - 7:00 A.M.

SATURDAY, April 25, 2009

- State Specific Land Surveyor Examination – 7:00 A.M.
- Seismic Principles - 8:30 A.M.
- Engineering Surveying - 1:30 P.M.

With variations such as weather, traffic conditions, parking, examinee population, etc., the Board cannot predict the exact time the exams will begin. Therefore, all examinees are required to arrive at their exam room at the time the doors open. Examinees that arrive at the exam room after the exam instructions have begun will be considered **LATE** and will not be allowed to take the exam and will forfeit the \$275 application fee. This policy applies to both the morning and afternoon sessions.

It is your responsibility to take the necessary precautions to ensure you arrive on time. It is your responsibility to verify directions. Be prepared to pay for parking. Be prepared for either warm or cold temperatures, as exam sites may not have adequate heating and cooling capabilities. Earplugs for sound suppression are allowed in the event of unavoidable noise as a result of other events scheduled at the exam site. Examinees are prohibited from bringing the following items into the exam room: weapons of any kind, tobacco products, alcohol, and hats with brims or bills. You may bring seat cushions into the testing area. You will vacate the testing area after each exam session. You should make arrangements to bring your own food and beverage for lunch; however, some exam locations offer food service. Contact your assigned examination site for more information. Personal items are the sole responsibility of the examinee. NCEES, the Board, the proctors, and the site facility will **NOT** be responsible for any lost, misplaced or stolen items.

All examinees are subject to search of their persons and personal belongings while at the exam site. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of all those attending the exam site and to maintain the integrity and security of the exam. (See Title 16, California Code of Regs. sec. 442) By accepting admission to the exam site, each examinee willingly consents to submit his or her belongings, briefcases, backpacks, or other parcels to exam proctors or Board staff at any time while at the exam site for purposes of detecting and seizing any unauthorized materials or items. Any conduct that results in a violation of security or disrupts the examination may result in the

confiscation of an examinee's exam, an examinee's removal from the testing site, voiding of their exam results, and forfeiting their \$275 application fees.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION - Photo identification is required to take the exam. You will not be admitted without proper identification and it **MUST BE CURRENT**. Identification will only be accepted if it meets all of the following criteria:

1. Issued by a state or federal governmental agency including military IDs, other U.S. states and foreign countries.
2. Contains your photograph, visible signature and printed (typed) name
3. **NOT ACCEPTED:** student or employee identification cards

MECHANICAL PENCILS - The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) has adopted a policy which requires all examinees to use the mechanical pencils NCEES provides at the exam site. Examinees must use the NCEES-issued mechanical pencils only. This also applies to all California State Specific exams. Examinees may NOT bring lead or erasers. If additional lead or an eraser is needed during the exam, raise your hand and a proctor will issue an additional pencil. After the exam you may keep the NCEES pencils.

EXAMINATION SECURITY - Failure to follow oral and written instructions and/or conduct which results in a violation of security or disrupts the administration of the exam could result in the confiscation of an examinee's exam, an examinee's removal from the testing site, voiding of their exam results, and forfeiting their \$275 application fees. (See Title 16, California Code of Regs. sec. 442). Conduct which jeopardizes the integrity of the exam is a misdemeanor and in violation of Section 123 of the Business and Professions Code and may result in the imposition of a fine up to \$10,000.

Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to the following:

- Writing on anything other than the designated exam booklet, solution booklet, and/or answer sheet;
- Writing or erasing after time is called;
- Looking at or copying another examinee's material;
- Talking during the exam;
- Using an unauthorized calculating device;
- Possession of a cell phone for any purpose during the exam;
- Communicate or sharing reference materials, calculators, or any other exam materials with other examinees during the exam;
- Attend this examination only to review or audit test materials;
- Copying any portion of the exam for any reason;
- Possession of any other unauthorized item or material.

Collusion among examinees is a serious offense. To help insure that you are implicated in any misconduct, keep your answer sheet covered at all times to prevent others from copying your work. NCEES conducts an analysis each exam administration to help identify incidents of collusion.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND EXAMINATION SECURITY

All NCEES and California State Specific exams are copyrighted works. Examinees are strictly prohibited from copying or disclosing any exam questions, problems, or answers, orally or in writing. This prohibition includes, not discussing or disclosing any exam questions or problems on Internet blogs, chat rooms, or through any other means.

REFERENCE MATERIALS - There are two types of documents that apply: professionally, published reference materials that are bound by staples and reference materials that are manually or hand stapled. The published reference materials that are securely fastened in their covers by their staples are allowed. Manually or hand stapled documents and are NOT securely fastened in their covers are NOT allowed. "Post-Its" will be permitted as book tabs only (must be attached prior to entering the testing area). You are permitted to bring as many reference materials into the testing area as one trip will permit. Fire Codes require that all aisle ways be kept clear.

All reference materials (i.e. including all forms of notes) must be bound and remain bound during the exam. Bound refers to material permanently bound by stitching or glue and materials fastened securely in its cover by fasteners which penetrate all papers (i.e. ring binders, spiral binders, plastic snap binders, brads, or screw posts). Published

reference materials entitled, "120 Solved Surveying Problems" for the California Special Civil Engineers Examination (CSSP) and "Civil Surveying Samples Examinations" for the California Special Engineering Surveying Examination (CSSE2) will be allowed.

Items strictly prohibited in the exam area: hand stapled materials, blank writing tablets or tablets containing blank pages, unbound tablets, unbound notes, slide charts and/or wheel charts (hand-held cardboard or plastic calculating devices with rotating or sliding pieces).

NCEES CALCULATOR POLICY AND THE CALIFORNIA BOARD CALCULATOR POLICY

There are TWO different calculator policies that apply to particular exams that are administered by the Board, namely the **NCEES Calculator Policy** and **California Board Calculator Policy**.

The NCEES Calculator Policy ONLY allows calculating devices listed below for the NCEES Professional Engineer and NCEES Professional Land Surveyor Examination:

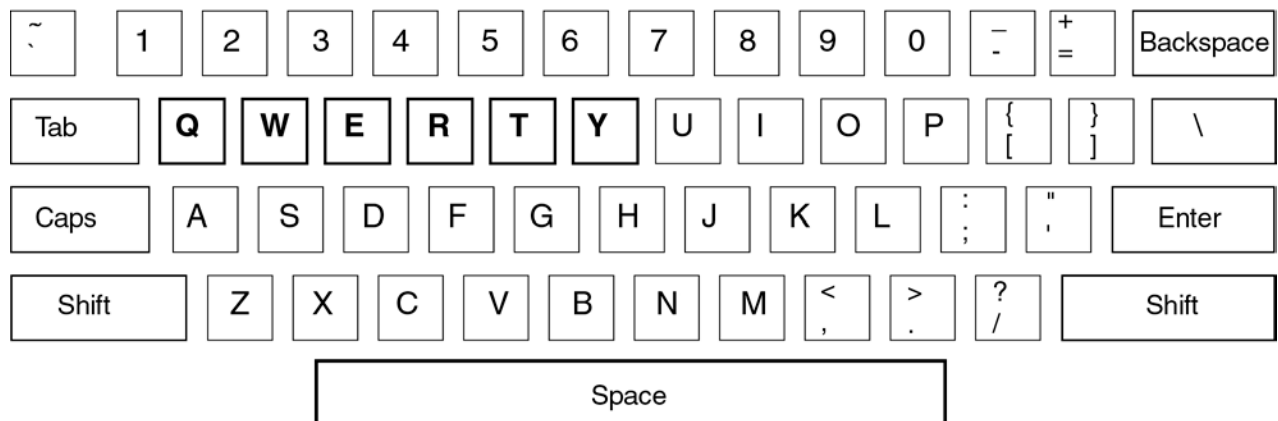
- **Hewlett-Packard:** HP33s and HP 35s models, but no others
- **Casio:** All fx115 models. Any Casio calculator must contain fx115 in its model name.
- **Texas Instruments:** All TI 30X and TI 36 X models. Any Texas Instruments calculator must contain either TI-30X or TI-36X in its model name.

These models are the only calculators that will be permitted in the exam room for the NCEES exams. Using a prohibited calculator will result in removal from the exam site, exam not being scored, and forfeiting the \$275 application fee.

The California Board Calculator Policy described below ONLY applies to the California Land Surveyor, Seismic Principles and the Engineering Surveying Examinations:

The use of any calculating/computing device having a QWERTY keypad arrangement similar to a typewriter or a computer keyboard during the examination is strictly prohibited. The following devices are also prohibited, whether or not they have a QWERTY keypad Function: palmtop, laptop, handheld or desktop computers, data banks, data collectors, personal data assistants (PDA) and organizers. Calculators with other alphanumeric keypads are acceptable. Notwithstanding the above, the Board or its designees have the right to prohibit the use of any device which, in the opinion of the Board, may pose a threat to examination security.

ONE EXAMPLE OF A "QWERTY" KEYPAD



PROHIBITED ELECTRONIC DEVICES - Prohibited electronic devices include but are not limited to unauthorized calculators, cell phones, ipods, MP3 players, pagers, personal data assistants (PDAs), scanners,

cameras, radios, data collectors, headsets, tape players, portable fax machines, calculator watches, reproduction equipment, electronic dictionaries, electronic translators, recorders, or any device which, in the opinion of the Board, may pose a threat to exam security. If found with prohibited devices during the exam, the device(s) will be confiscated, you will be removed from the exam site, your exam will not be scored, and you will forfeit the \$275 application fee. In addition, the incident will be reported to the Board's Enforcement Unit for investigation as a possible violation of the laws regarding exam security and subversion. Penalties for this violation are stated above in addition to being banned from taking future Board examinations. **LEAVE THESE DEVICES IN YOUR CAR OR AT HOME!**

If any prohibited items are brought into the exam room prior to the beginning of the exam, you will be required to leave them (at your own risk) in a designated area within the exam room. The Board assumes no responsibilities or liability for any of these prohibited items. You may retrieve these devices after each session. Prior to the exam, if you fail or refuse to surrender the device(s) to the Board's representative upon request, you will be removed from the exam site for failing to comply with the laws and policies which govern these exams.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS - The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) processes all requests for special accommodation for the Board. If you had a need for special testing due to religious beliefs ([Religious Accommodations Request Form](#)) or for reasons falling within the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ([Special Accommodations Questionnaire](#)), you should have completed the appropriate form found on the Boards website, attaching all supporting documentation and sent to NCEES. All requests must be submitted to NCEES by the final filing date of the examination for which you are applying. Without prior approval, **NO** exceptions or special accommodations will be granted. **Example:** Examinee is a diabetic who requires food during the examination: if this request was not submitted to NCEES before the filing date of the exam, the consumption of food at the table during the exam will not be allowed. **NOTE:** You must request special accommodations for each examination administration cycle, even if none of the information has changed since the last request. Furthermore, if you fail, postpone, or do not show up for the PE or PLS examination, you must reapply to NCEES again before the final filing date of the next scheduled examination in order to be reconsidered for Special Accommodations.

ADMISSION PROBLEMS - At all exam sites a "Help Desk" is available for those examinees who did not receive an admission notice or who need assistance. The "Help Desk" will be available Thursday, April 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The "Help Desk" will also be available Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, beginning 30 minutes prior to the opening of the doors.

EXAMINATION RESULTS/CHANGE OF ADDRESS - The Board will post the release dates of the exam results on our website at www.pels.ca.gov and on our recorded message at (916) 263-2222. In order to receive your results, your address must be current thirty (30) days prior to the release date. All address changes must be submitted in writing to the Board office using the Address Change Affidavit. This form can be found in the "Forms" section on the Board website at http://www.pels.ca.gov/pubs/forms/address_change.pdf. Address Change Affidavit forms may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the Board Office. **NOTE:** The names and addresses of Board licensees are public records and are published in both electronic and print media. You may use a residential or business address, a post office box or an APO address.

COMMENT FORMS - This form is available to examinees in order to make comments and to challenge specific test questions on the exam. At the conclusion of an exam, you may request a Comment Form from the proctor at the door. You must use one form per test question. You may NOT copy exam questions during or after the exam for inclusion on the comment form. This comment form is to be completed at home and returned to the Board office within ten (10) days of the examination. Comment forms are also available in the Forms section on the Board's web site at <http://www.pels.ca.gov/pubs/forms/examcomments.pdf>.

RESCHEDULING - If you fail to appear, or are late for the exam and are not admitted, or do not pass the exam, you will be required to pay another fee to reschedule.

TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION - The Board must ensure that California licensed Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors are familiar with the provisions of the Professional Engineers Act, the Professional

Land Surveyors Act, and the Board Rules. Business Professions Code sections 6755.1 and 8741.1 require the Board to administer a test on the State Laws and Board Rules to all Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor applicants. To be licensed as a Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor in California, you must take and pass the appropriate Take-Home examination. The PE and PLS Take-Home examinations are located on the Board's website at http://www.pels.ca.gov/applicants/takehome_exams.html. This should be returned within thirty (30) days after the PE/PLS examination. While the Board will accept and grade this examination after the thirty day period, your license could be delayed significantly if you pass the other part(s) of the examination and the Take-Home examination has not been received. *The Professional Engineers Act, The Professional Land Surveyors Act, and the Board Rules* are located on the Board's website and describe the important laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the practices of professional engineering and professional land surveying and are to be used as references for the Take-Home examination. If you want a bound "hard-copy" of *The Professional Engineers Act, Professional Land Surveyors Act, and Board Rules*, please mail a written request and a check or money order for \$5.00 (payable to the Department of Consumer Affairs) to the Board. You may use other reference material as well. All questions have equal weight. **You must achieve a minimum of 70% to pass this examination.** If you do not achieve a passing score, the Board will mail a notice to you, requesting you to retake this examination. You will not receive a license number until you pass the Take-Home examination.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CALIFORNIA STATE SPECIFIC EXAMS can be located by going to www.pels.ca.gov

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR NATIONAL EXAMS can be located by going to www.ncees.org